SQ18 Yanoama

1: Schuster, Meinhard. Die Soziologie der Waika [The Sociology of the Waica]. International Congress of Americanists, Proceedings, No. 32, pp. 114-122. /HRAF pag. 1-11./ Copenhagen: Munksgaard, 1958.

Yale: C2 054 32.

Translated from the German for the Human Relations Area Files by Shelton Hicock.

/This study based upon the author's personal field experience discusses antagonistic and friendly inter-community relationships, as well as social groupings within the village community. The latter are observed during a gift-giving ceremony, family groupings during internal migrations, and in case of establishment of a new village community./

Field date: 1954-1955
Analyst: Sigrid Khera

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1969

2: Becher, Hans. Die Surára and Pakidái, Zwei Yanonámi-Stämme in Nordwestbrasilien [The Surara and Pakidai, Two Yanoama Tribes in Northwest Brazil]. Hamburg, Museum für Völkerkunde, Mitteilungen, Vol. 26, pp. 1-133. Hamburg: Kommissionsverlag Cram, De Gruyter & Co., 1960.

Yale: Nk37 +H21e 26. [HRAF MS: pp. vii, 281].

Translated from the German for the Human Relations Area Files by Frieda Schütze.

/As an ethnographical account, this study goes into exact details on material culture, religious activities, and political structure. Social organization, in particular kinship, finds only limited discussion. The author provides the native terms for most culture elements under description. When discussing individual culture elements he points out their distribution in other parts of South America, and gives his own as well as other anthropologists' theories on the origin and migration of the particular element. During his stay in the field the author learned the language of these two Yanoama tribes. He held a most sympathetic attitude toward the Indians and was fully accepted by them.
Illustrations referred to in the text will be found at the end of this source, category 116, pp. 266-281./

Field date: 1956
Analyst: Sigrid Khera

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1968-1969

3: Rodrigues, Aryon Dall'Igna. Über die Sprache der Surára und Pakidái [On the Language of the Surara and Pakidai]. Mitteilungen aus dem Museum für Völkerkunde in Hamburg. Vol. 26, pp. 134-138. /HRAF Pag. 1-7./ Hamburg, 1960.

Yale: Nk37 + H21e 26.

Translated from the German for the Human Relations Area Files by Frieda Schutze.

/This source is a short account on the present day situation concerning the historical and linguistical knowledge of the Yanoama languages./

Field date: none
Analyst: Sigrid Khera

Evaluation: Linguist-4
Processed in 1968

4: Wilbert, Johannes. Los Sanema /The Sanema/. In his Indios de la Región Orinoco-Ventuari. Fundación La Salle de Ciencias Naturales, Monografía No. 8, pp. 11-20, 177-236. Caracas, 1963.

8 maps (1 unnumbered); 26 illustrations.

HRAF Copy. /HRAF MS: pp. 1-115/.

Translated from the Spanish for the Human Relations Area Files by Sydney Muirden.

[This source encompasses only the introduction and one chapter (the Sanema) of the author's major work dealing with the Indians of the Orinoco-Ventuari region of southern Venezuela. The introductory portion deals primarily with the geography of the region and the location and basic identification of the various tribes inhabiting the area, specifically (in addition to the Sanema), the Makiritare-SS20, the Saliva--SS15, the Guahibo-SC14, the Yabarana-SS22, the Panare-SS21, the Puinave-SC18, the Barauna-SQ27, the Achagua-SC5 and the Venezuelan Indians-SS4. Data pertinent to the above ethnic groups have been given appropriate sub-heads in the text. The chapter on the Sanema (which incidentally covers other sub-tribes of the Yanoama in addition to the Sanema proper, as well as other OWC tribal groups), presents a general coverage of information on such aspects as: intertribal relationships; early European accounts of contacts with the Sanema; locality of settlements and population statistics of the Sanema on the upper Caura (Pubmatari), the upper Erebato (Sanemadub), and the upper Ventuari (Nabudub); house types; technology; clothing and body painting; a linguistic study of the language

4: Wilbert, Johannes.

based on glottochronological analysis of the vocabularies of the various Yanoama sub-tribes; genetic relationship of the Diego gene in the population in terms of linguistic affinity; food gathering and agriculture; domestic animals; the family, marriage customs and residential patterns; community structure; religion and the religious hierarchy (shaman, priest and magician); political organization (i.e. the chief); puberty; death customs; and mythology.

The author frequently uses native terms in the text which in many cases he fails to define, thus the source would benefit greatly if there had been a glossary. A brief glossary prepared by the analyst appears in category 104. The bibliography and table of contents will be found only in the foreign text, pp. 247-263 and p. 265 respectively.]

Field date: 1958
Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Ethnologist-4, 5
Processed in 1966

5: Layrisse, Miguel, Zulay Layrisse and Johannes Wilbert. Blood Group Antigen Tests of the Waica Indians of Venezuela. Southwestern Journal of Anthropology, Vol. 18, pp. 78-93. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico, 1962.

1 map.

HRAF copy.

[Although this source is basically a blood group study of the Waica Indians, the first five pages contain a cultural summary of the Yanoama which should serve as an excellent background for the understanding of the people as a whole. After a discussion of the results of the blood group antigen tests with the Waica, the authors compare their results with the frequency of similarly occurring antigens among other marginal ("Paleo/Meso-Indian") people, primarily the Warao and the Yaruro. On the basis of their genetic analysis in conjunction with other linguistic and cultural evidence, the authors present the hypothesis(based on sampling of the Waica and Warao data) that "...the establishment of the genetic identity of two tribes with respect to the Diego blood gene has led us to assume that Paleo-American Man in Venezuela, although phenotypically different, is homogeneous for the Diego gene. Probably, in response to a changing environment, he developed two different culture types still traceable among his modern descendants.]

Field date: ca. 1960
Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Physicians, Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1965-1968

6: Vinci, Alfonso. Red Cloth and Green Forest. Translated from the Italian by James Cadell. London: Hutchinson and Co. Ltd., 1959.

Pp. 274; 56 photographic illustrations; preface; appendix; end map (attached to cover).

Yale: Ehh Ami 956Vg.

[Only pp. 25-26, 41-47, 52-66, 71-152, 185-189, 197-220 and plates between pages 96-97, 144-145, and 192-193 have been processed for this file.]

/This source is a popular account of the author's travels among the Yanoama (Sanema subgroup) and the Makiritare Indians of Southern Venezuela. In addition to the author's personal experiences in the field, this source records much incidental information on Sanema and Makiritare ethnography such as food gathering activities, travel, weapons, clothing, toilet, house types, raiding activities, and settlement patterns. Data on the Makiritare have been subheaded for the SS20 Makiritare file. In spite of chapter headings to the contrary, the author did not see any Waica or Samatari subgroups of the Yanoama in his travels but only Sanema. The researcher should note that while the heading of this source indicates that the author was only in the field during 1950, there is evidence in the book that he was there for a longer period than that; for example, on p. 216 of the text (cat. 116) a statement on the page indicates that he was actually in the field as of New Years Eve, 1954.]

Field date: 1950
Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Traveler, Explorer, 5
Processed in 1965-1968

7: Barker, James. Memoria sobre la cultura de los Guaika [Memoir on the Culture of the Waica]. Boletín Indigenista Venezolano, Vol. 1, pp. 433-489. /HRAF pagination 1-65./ Caracas, 1953.

Harvard Peabody: L. Soc. 130.5.13.2.

Translated from the Spanish for the Human Relations Area Files by Sidney Muirden.

/This is a short yet precise ethnographic description by an American Protestant missionary. Of particular interest is the description of intercommunity relationships./

Field date: 1951-1953
Analyst: Sigrid Khera

Evaluation: Missionary-5
Processed in 1969

St Barker, James. Las incursiones entre los Guaika [Raids among the Waica]. Boletín Indigenista Venezolano, Vol. 7, pp. 151-167. Caracas: Comisión Indigenista, 1959.

Harvard Peabody: L. Soc. 130.5.13.2. [HRAF MS: pp. 1-18]

Translated from the Spanish for the Human Relations Area Files by Sydney Muirden.

/This short article by a Protestant missionary gives an excellent description of warfare activities between Yanoama (Waica) groups, which the author witnessed personally during the 1950s./

Field dates: 1951-1956
Analyst: Sigrid Khera

Evaluation: Missionary-5
Processed in 1968-1969

9: Grelier, Joseph. To the Source of the Orinoco. Translated from the French by H. A. G. Schmuckler. London: Herbert Jenkins, 1952.

Pp. 190; foreword by Professor Charles Jacob; author's note; bibliography; 51 illustrations; 4 text maps; 1 table; index; end map.

Personal copy of T. J. O'Leary.

/Only pp. 72-88, 90, 106-120, 170-171 and plates between pages 64-65 and 96-97 have been processed for this file./

/This source is a popular account of the author's trip to discover the source of the Orinoco river and his incidental ethnographic observations on the various Indian groups with whom he came in contact during his expedition. The selected pages from the book which have been chosen for inclusion in this file deal with the Guaharibo and Waica sub-groups of the Yanoama, the Makiritare (SS20) and the more general Venezuelan Indians (SS4) file. These latter two files have been added to the heading of the text pages as post posited subheads, the former two--sub-groups of the Yanoama--as unnumbered subheads. Ethnographic coverage in the source is limited to what the author observed about the Indians during his brief stay with them--physical appearance, toilet, clothing, ornament use of tobacco, house types, agriculture, trade, weapons, food preparation, and household furnishings and utensils./

Field date: 1951
Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Geographer-5
Processed in 1965

10: Chagnon, Napoleon Alphonseau. Yąnomamö warfare, social organization and marriage alliances. Doctoral dissertation submitted to the University of Michigan in 1966. University Microfilms Publications, No. 67-8226. Ann Arbor, University Microfilms, 1967.

3, 9, 221 l.

HRAF Copy.

[Among the Yąnomamö Indians social relationships between members of a group as well as with persons outside the group are marked by highly aggressive behavior. Villages split frequently due to conflicts between residents. Warfare is most frequent and fierce between villages which have developed from such a split. The most frequent cause for intra- and intervillage conflicts is the shortage of females, created by female infanticide and polygyny. Abduction of women is a main goal of warfare. Alliances between villages are dictated by the warfare situation, and are very unstable. The militarily weaker village has to cede women to the stronger one as price for the protection granted. Apparently this situation of extreme aggression does not apply to all Yanoama groups, but primarily to the ones in the Mavaca Basin of Venezuela. Among the groups of the Uraricaa river area in Northern Brazil warfare is by far less frequent.]

Field work: 1964-1966
Analysis: Sigrid Khera, marker
John Beierle, checker

Evaluation: Ethnologist-4, 5
Processed in 1971-1972

SQ18 Yanoama

11: Chagnon, Napoleon Alphonseau. Yanomamö, the fierce people. New York, Holt, Rinehart and Winston. 1968.

19, 142 p.; 31 photographs; 2 maps; 7 text figures; glossary; bibliography.

HRAF copy. DLC card no.: 68-22310.

[This monograph on the Yanoama is based on a two year stay in the field; the research being conducted in the native language.

The Yanoama in the tropical forest between the Rio Negro and the Orinoco, live on the cultivation of various food plants, of which plantains are of major importance. Yanoama society is marked by a chronic state of warfare, which determines not only intervillage relationships, but also relations between individuals of the same community, and even of the same family. Interpersonal as well as inter- and intracommunity relations are marked by constant distrust and display of fierceness to prove superiority.

This book also contains a very interesting description of the author's personal experience as field worker.]

Field dates: Nov. 1964-Feb. 1966, Venezuela
Jan.-March 1967, Brazil and Ven.
Jan.-March 1968, Ven.

Analysis: Sigrid Khera, marker
John Beierle, checker

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1971-1972